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# THE CLASSICAL JOURNAL

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## Editorial

### THE RECENT MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHILOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The forty-fifth annual meeting of the American Philological Association was held at Harvard University, December 29-31. The decision that this meeting should be held in conjunction with that of the Modern Language Association was a wise one, especially in this particular year when the report of the Joint Committee on Grammatical Nomenclature was to be presented. To many of our members it was undoubtedly a very considerable hardship that the Archaeological Association should meet this year in Montreal, although that meeting came on January 1-3. However, our interests are certainly more vitally allied with those of the Modern Language Association than with those of the Archaeological Association.

The combined attendance of the two associations amounted to more than 460 persons, of whom about 160 are members of the Philological Association. Three joint sessions of the Associations were held. At the first, on Monday evening, Professor Harold North Fowler delivered the annual address of the president of the Philological Association, a most valuable and scholarly paper on the subject: "The Present and Future of Classical Studies in the United States." The address was full of excellent suggestions and was admirably expressed. At the second, on Tuesday afternoon, various papers were given and Professor William Gardner Hale, chairman of the Joint Committee on Grammatical Nomenclature, presented this committee's report. At the third joint session, on Tuesday evening, the annual address of the president of the Modern Language Association was given by Professor Alexander R. Hohlfeld. His subject was: "Light from Goethe on Our

Problems." The paper was intensely interesting and charmingly presented. Professor Hohlfeld emphasized the fact that the interests of the ancient and of the modern languages are identical.

Of the many other papers on the program it is hardly necessary to speak. Lack of space prevents our mentioning them individually and they will all be published later, as a whole or in full summaries. It must be said, however, that the papers were all of the usual excellent quality and there seems to be no reason to fear a decline in American scholarship. There was no intemperate paper, like the one that marred the program at Washington last year. Discussion was full and free, and always in good spirit.

In addition to the fine papers, many other things served to make this a memorable meeting of the Association. The arrangements for the entertainment of nearly five hundred guests had been most carefully made by our colleagues on the Harvard faculty, and all of the plans were carried out with absolute precision. Here, too, the lack of space prevents even the mention of all the things that were done for us. After the address on Monday evening a most enjoyable reception was given to the members of both associations by Professor and Mrs. Herbert Weir Smyth and Professor and Mrs. George Lyman Kittredge, at the Harvard Union. On Tuesday afternoon we were all entertained at luncheon at the Harvard Union, as guests of the University Corporation. The address on Tuesday evening was followed by a delightful reception for the ladies by Mrs. Herbert Weir Smyth, at her residence, while the men were given a smoker at the Harvard Club in Boston. This last-mentioned event was regarded by nearly all, if not all, of the men as the finest feature of the whole meeting. The room was completely filled and for several short hours the company of nearly four hundred men enjoyed the pleasures of a real *convivium* as described so beautifully in the *De senectute*. Rev. Samuel M. Crothers, always a charming speaker and writer, gave a brilliant address, which was enthusiastically received. Each guest had been given a printed copy of the words of eight songs, in English, Latin, German, or French, and these songs were sung at intervals during the evening to the accompaniment of the Harvard Club's magnificent organ. Naturally the present writer most thoroughly enjoyed "Gaudeamus Igitur," "Integer Vitae," and "Drink to Me Only with Thine

Eyes"; but the instructors in French seemed to get most delight out of "Malbrouck," if one may judge from appearances!

Probably the privilege, given on Tuesday afternoon, of seeing Mrs. Gardner's remarkably fine collection of paintings and other works of art would be noted among the especial pleasures of the meeting by those who were fortunate enough to secure tickets of admission.

The most important business transacted on Wednesday afternoon concerned the report of the Joint Committee on Grammatical Nomenclature. As is well known, the committee has been working on this difficult problem for several years. Many meetings have been held in various cities by the committee and by the subcommittees. Our members of the committee have been in session 186 hours! A pamphlet of 65 pages, containing the committee's recommendations and explanations, was mailed to each member of the associations a week before the meeting. Inasmuch as no member had received his copy before starting for Cambridge additional copies were distributed on Tuesday afternoon. In his very brief remarks at the time of presenting the report Professor Hale said in part: "If you read the report, you will think that there was no discussion. If you had heard the discussions, you would have thought there could be no report! The Committee of Fifteen, chosen from the entire country, has come to a perfect agreement, except on a very few minor matters. The work yet remaining to be done is chiefly a matter of the writing of a brief history of the movement and of preparing an index. No change in the body of the report is contemplated."

At the business meeting there was a prolonged discussion and many suggestions were made and amendments to motions offered, not to mention substitute motions! At last the Association voted, as follows:

1. That the report of the joint committee be received and that the committee be continued.
2. That the committee be requested to complete the report and to provide for its publication.
3. That the Association express its sense of the desirability of uniformity of grammatical terminology in the work of the schools, and recommend that the schools follow the general lines

of the report of the Joint Committee on Grammatical Nomenclature, with the understanding that this recommendation does not carry with it approval of all the terms proposed in the report. No individual term was mentioned in the discussion.

It should be noted also that the Modern Language Association had previously passed resolutions to the same general effect and without reservation of any kind.

At the conclusion of this, the Committee on Nominations recommended the election of the following officers for the coming year and they were accordingly elected: President, Professor Edward Capps, Princeton University; Vice-Presidents, Professor Carl Darling Buck, University of Chicago, Professor Edward Parmelee Morris, Yale University; Secretary and Treasurer, Professor Frank Gardner Moore, Columbia University; Executive Committee, the above-named officers, and Professor Charles Knapp, Barnard College, Professor Henry A. Sanders, University of Michigan, Professor John A. Scott, Northwestern University, Professor Kirby Flower Smith, Johns Hopkins University, Professor Arthur L. Wheeler, Bryn Mawr College.

Professor Moore then announced that two definite invitations have been received for the next annual meeting. After some discussion it was voted that the whole question of time and place of the next meeting be left to the Executive Committee with power. At the meeting in Washington a year ago many members expressed the desire that we might occasionally meet by ourselves. The same wish was often voiced at Harvard, though not at the business meeting. If this is done, our meeting will naturally be much smaller and we shall miss the deep inspiration such as that which we have just received from meeting with the Modern Language Association and from getting to know its members and its ideals. This gain alone would have made the meeting in Cambridge more than worth while, even without the privilege of listening to the papers and the enjoyment of Harvard's magnificent hospitality. The value, however, of a deeper acquaintance, gained by really living together for three days at some small college, would be great, and the time for such a meeting may be at hand.

M. N. W.